

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Archives Section, Canadian Historical Association, will be held on Wednesday, June 9th, on the campus of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Details of the program, speakers, etc., will be forwarded to all C.H.A. members shortly.

Union List of Manuscripts

Work on the Union List is slowly nearing completion. A total of 162 archival repositories in Canada were asked to send in reports on their manuscript holdings. To date, over 11,000 returns have been received, more than two thirds of the estimated total of 15,000. Some repositories are still reporting their holdings while only one major repository is still to be heard from.

The Master Catalogue is now being compiled from the returns and is already being used for reference purposes. In addition to the main entry cards, it also contains some 9,000 nominal reference cards. The Master Catalogue is housed in the Manuscript Division, Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

Archives Training Course

A total of 25 students were registered for the course in Archival Principles and Administration, held at Carleton University, Ottawa, last summer. Of these students, 14 were from Ontario, three from Saskatchewan, three from Quebec, two from Alberta, two from Manitoba, and one each from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Twenty-one of the students successfully completed the course and passed the examinations. Among instructors were specialists from the Public Archives of Canada, and from provincial, municipal, business, church and university archives. D.G. Wurtele, formerly of the Public Archives, served as co-ordinator of the course.

Approximately 100 hours of instruction were given during the four-week course. About 60 hours were devoted to lectures and discussions and 40 hours to practical assignments. Among the assignments were: the examination of Geological Survey dead files, each student being given several feet of material with instructions to appraise it and decide on retention or disposal, with reasons; theoretical stripping of McGill University dead files by examination of lists of contents; transcription of photocopied handwritten documents; preparation of nominal and subject index slips from actual boxes of Laurier papers; and the creation of main